is not decided merely on basis of age but on age-cum-physical condition basis and technical consideration. Therefore, concept of average age is not used in context of Railway Bridges. As on 1.4.2002, there are 526 numbers of distressed bridges which are targeted for rehabilitation by 2005-06.

(b) No, Sir. However, replacement of girders bridges upto 6.1m spans with ballasted concrete slabs was recommended for consideration of better running quality and less maintenance required.

(c) The process of replacement, as per recommendation, is continous activity and 11,067 number of steel girders has been replaced by RCC/ PSC slabs since 1987. Implementation of recommendation is done on age-cum-condition basis and subject to availability of funds.

Rajdhani Express for Raipur

†400. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run Rajdhani Express for Raipur during any other day of the week also, instead of the present frequency of once a week;

(b) if so, the number of days in a week this train is proposed to be run; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rail services for NJP

401. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new rail services between New Delhi and New Jalpai Guri, Kolkata and New Jalpai Guri and Mumbai and New Jalpai Guri, in view of the rush and non-availibility of tickets to tourists from various parts of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the new rail services on these sections would provide a ..ost to the much-needed tourism in the North Eastern Region; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) To cater to the needs of New Delhi-New Jalapiguri sector, it is proposed to increase the frequency of 2435/2436 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express from 2 days a week to 4 days a week during 2002-2003.

However, introduction of additional trains services, on the Kolkata New Jalpaiguri sector and Mumbai-New Jalpaiguri sector, is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

(b) and (c) To cater to the needs of the tourists and other passengers and to clear the extra rush during peak season, 201/202 Guwahati-New Delhi Summer Special and 203/204 Guwahati-Dadar Summer Special were run between 13.4.2002 and 18.06.2002 and 18.04.2002 and 23.06.2002 respectively.

Supply of Rail Neer at railway stations

402. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway proposes to supply purified, clean drinking water named "Rail Neer" from October 7, 2002 on railway stations and in certain passenger trains;

(b) if so, what could be its price per bottle;

(c) whether this purified drinking water would be made available in other Railway Zones also; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), a public limited company under the Ministry of Railways, has proposed to establish complete purification and bottling plants for packaged drinking water for exclusive sale at railway premises and on trains. The target date to introduce Rail Neer is by 31.12.2002.